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**TIMOTHY J. WALZ**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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## HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT REQUESTS

### 2009 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BILL

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The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, of which Congressman Walz is a member, is crafting a new Surface Transportation Authorization legislation to replace the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act which expires on September 30, 2009.

To complement the work being done through regular program funding, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee provides Members of Congress with the opportunity to request that the bill designate a small percentage of funding for High Priority Projects (HPP) in their districts.

Congressman Walz only makes requests for High Priority Project if they are requested by Mayors, County Commissioners or other local officials who convey the needs of our communities in the First Congressional District. The Congressman requested the following High Priority Projects for possible inclusion in the upcoming 2009 Surface Transportation Bill being crafted by Congress.

This is the first step of the legislative process. While Congressman Walz will advocate for all of these projects, the reality is that not all projects will be funded and those that receive funding may get significantly less than was requested.

It is important to note that this legislation is an authorization bill, not an appropriations bill. Even if a particular project becomes a part of the final bill that only means that the project has been authorized under federal law and it does not guarantee that any federal funds will actually be appropriated in the future.

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#### **55<sup>th</sup> Street Extension in Rochester – \$7 million**

Requestor: Olmsted County

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would finish construction of a 1.9 mile expansion of 55th Street NW as a four-lane expressway to U.S. Hwy. 63, dramatically improving traffic flow and safety in northern Rochester, encouraging development and creating needed construction jobs.

#### **65<sup>th</sup> Street Interchange in Rochester – \$15 million**

Requestor: City of Rochester

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would complete construction of an interchange at 65<sup>th</sup> Street NW and U.S. Hwy. 52 in Rochester, creating construction jobs and improving traffic flow and access to northwest Rochester. In addition, the interchange would encourage private development of the land around the existing 65<sup>th</sup> Street bridge.

**Highway 14 and County Road 12 Interchange Project in Mankato - \$14.7 million**

Requestor: Blue Earth County

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would extend Blue Earth County Road 12 to County Road 17, building a bridge over the DM&E railroad and creating a safe, separated-grade interchange with Hwy. 14. This project will create needed construction jobs and ease congestion and dramatically improve traffic flow in eastern Mankato.

**Highway 14 Upgrade, New Ulm to North Mankato – \$35 million**

Requestor: Highway 14 Partnership

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This would be part of a project to expand Hwy. 14 from two to four lanes, between New Ulm and North Mankato, improving traffic flow and safety and creating needed construction jobs.

**Highway 14 Upgrade, Owatonna to Dodge Center – \$35 million**

Requestor: Highway 14 Partnership

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This would be part of a project to expand Hwy. 14 from two to four lanes between Owatonna and Dodge Center, improving traffic flow and safety along the highway and creating needed construction jobs.

**Highway 14 Interchange with CSAH 41 - \$18.4 million**

Requestor: Highway 14 Partnership

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would expand Hwy 14 from two to four lanes between Nicollet County Road 6 and Lookout Drive in Mankato, improving traffic flow and safety and creating important construction jobs

**Highway 52 Upgrades, Pine Island to Oronoco - \$15 million**

Requestor: Olmsted County

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

The project would help complete construction of an interchange near Pine Island in Olmsted County on Hwy. 52. This project is important because it would improve traffic flow and safety on Hwy. 52 and encourage business development and long-term job creation at the proposed Elk Run bio-business park

**Highway 60 Upgrades - \$10 million**

Requestor: City of Worthington

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would expand Highway 60 from two lanes to four lanes between Mankato and Worthington, creating needed construction jobs, improving traffic flow and reducing congestion

**Highway 169 Scoping / EIS Study of St. Peter Bypass – \$2.4 million**

Requestor: City of St. Peter

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This funding would complete a scoping study of an alternative route for Hwy. 169 through or around St. Peter. The project would be an initial step as a part of the broader project to build a bypass around St. Peter that would dramatically improve traffic flow and safety.

**Mankato At-Grade Rail Mitigation and Safety Upgrades- \$4 million**

Requestor: City of Mankato

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This project would finish environment analysis and begin construction on 15 individual improvement projects along the DM&E and UP railroad lines through Mankato. This is an important project because it would ultimately increase safety and decrease noise pollution from freight rail trains coming through Mankato.

**Mankato Total Street Circuit - \$3.2 million**

Requestor: City of Mankato

Fiscal Agent: City of Mankato

Address: 10 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, Minnesota 56002

This project would provide a dedicated bus lane connecting hilltop to MSU and construct a park and ride satellite facility. This funding is important because it would ensure the city can provide important transit services to its citizens and provide needed short-term construction jobs.

**Southern Rail Corridor around Rochester - \$190 million**

Requestor: City of Rochester

Fiscal Agent: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Address: 395 John Ireland Boulevard • St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

This is a visionary 21<sup>st</sup> century corridor to address Southern Minnesota's growing rail transportation needs in moving freight efficiently and safely. The Southern Rail Corridor will create good paying construction jobs in the short term and protect and grow southern Minnesota's economy in the long term

**Transit Operations Center in Rochester - \$13.4 million**

Requestor: City of Rochester

Fiscal Agent: City of Rochester

Address: 201 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Rochester, Minnesota 55904

This project would complete construction of a 60-bus garage and transit operations center that will help Rochester meet the transit needs of its rapidly growing population and create needed construction jobs in Rochester.